



## **Request for Proposals for Community-Based Habitat Restoration Projects through the FishAmerica Foundation/NOAA Restoration Center Partnership**

The [American Sportfishing Association](#)'s [FishAmerica Foundation](#) invites proposals for citizen-driven habitat restoration projects for its second round in 2008 under its partnership with the [NOAA Community-based Restoration Program](#).

Proposal Deadline – **October 6, 2008 at 5:00 PM**  
Grant Awards Announced – **January 2009**  
Download Grant Applications – <http://www.fishamerica.org>

### **Request for Proposals**

The partnership requests proposals for local efforts to accomplish meaningful on-the-ground restoration of marine, estuarine and riparian habitats, including salt marshes, seagrass beds, mangrove forests, and freshwater habitats important to anadromous fish species (fish like salmon and striped bass that migrate to and from the sea). Emphasis is on using a hands-on, grassroots approach to restore fisheries habitat across coastal America and U.S. Territories of the Caribbean. At this time, we are not considering projects in the Great Lakes Basin.

### **Eligible Projects**

Projects must result in on-the-ground habitat restoration, clearly demonstrate significant benefits to marine, estuarine or anadromous fisheries resources, particularly sportfish, and must involve community participation through an educational or volunteer component tied to the restoration activities. Applicants are encouraged to incorporate the participation of NOAA staff to strengthen the development and implementation of sound restoration projects.

The following activities will not be considered under partnership awards: (1) Activities that constitute legally required mitigation for the adverse effects of an activity regulated or otherwise governed by local, state or federal law; (2) activities that constitute restoration for natural resource damages under federal, state or local law; and (3) activities that are required by a separate consent decree, court order, statute or regulation.

### **Eligible Applicants**

Non-profit organizations such as local sporting clubs and conservation associations, educational institutions, and local and state governments may apply for funding. Non-profit organizations **must** provide proof of non-profit status (i.e. 501(c)(3) letter from the IRS). Local and state agencies, educational institutions and other government entities must provide their EIN number.

Applicants may also utilize fiscal sponsors for the project however the fiscal sponsor must be a non-profit organization.

### **Proposal Guidelines**

Eligible budget items include on-the-ground restoration materials (vegetation/planting materials, culverts/fishways, streambank stabilization materials, etc.), contractual labor (heavy equipment rental and operation, engineering, etc.), on-site salaries directly associated with project coordination or implementation (project manager, volunteer coordinator, etc.), and monitoring equipment. The partnership will not provide funding for indirect costs. Sub-awards will range between \$5,000 and \$50,000 per project. Proposals may be part of a larger restoration project funded through additional sources; however, FAF/NOAA-funded on-the-ground restoration activities must be completed within one year of a grant award. *Contact FishAmerica at (703) 519-9691 x247 for specific budget questions.*

### **Applying for Funding**

Applicants must submit **three copies of the completed** 2008 FishAmerica Foundation/NOAA Restoration Center Application for Funding for Community-Based Habitat Restoration Projects and **three copies** of all required documentation. The application is available on FishAmerica's website at <http://www.fishamerica.org>.

### **Permit Requirements**

Applicants must provide a list and current status (obtained, application filed, when anticipate obtaining approval, or have not applied) of all necessary federal, state, tribal and local permits required to complete the project and the appropriate regulatory agency contact (name, title, phone) for each permitting agency. FishAmerica will require copies of permit and compliance documentation once the documentation is secured and prior to the release of grant funds.

FishAmerica grantees will be required to satisfy all financial and programmatic requirements and meet all local, state and tribal environmental laws and Federal consistency requirements before project implementation.

### **National Environmental Policy Act Requirements**

All proposals will be reviewed and approved for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance by NOAA Fisheries with assistance from the FishAmerica Foundation. All projects must comply with NEPA before FishAmerica will release funds. For more information on NEPA, please visit NOAA's website at <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov>.

Applicants will be required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, the presence of historic structures, and impacts to coral reef systems) in order for NOAA to make a NEPA determination on each proposal.

In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying and implementing feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal.

### **Monitoring and Estuary Restoration Act of 2000**

In support of the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000 and the million-acre goal, FishAmerica will work toward monitoring and evaluating restoration project proposals under the partnership. Restoration projects will be expected to have clearly identified goals (broad in scope) and specific, measurable objectives. Proposals should describe the associated parameters that will be monitored during the project period. FishAmerica and NOAA will work with successful applicants to finalize monitoring parameters and develop success targets to evaluate project results.

For stream barrier removal projects (e.g. dam removal, culvert removal), some specific monitoring parameters that should be included in the proposed project include:

1. Number of stream miles made accessible;
2. Final project designs as compared to as-built conditions/designs, including whether or not the site as constructed meets standard fish passage criteria or published passage guidance;
3. Presence/absence of target diadromous fish upstream of project site before and after barrier removal;
4. Number of community participation hours associated with the project;
5. Community enhancement activities associated with barrier removal, if applicable;
6. Change in operations, maintenance, and/or liability costs as a result of the project, if applicable;
7. Change in public safety as a result of the project, if applicable.

### **Total Available Funding**

The FishAmerica Foundation and the NOAA Restoration Center anticipate the availability of up to \$300,000 under this solicitation. Funding will be announced in January 2009. Anticipated awards are contingent on notification of federal funding to the FishAmerica Foundation.

### **Grant Award Reimbursement**

Grant funds for approved projects will be available to grant recipients by one of three reimbursement schedules during the grant period:

1. The full amount of the grant award will be made available following project completion and submission of the final report and all required documents.
2. A portion of the grant funds (to be determined by FAF and NOAA) may be made available following submission of an interim report and financial documentation of expenditures up to the time of reporting. The remaining portion of funds will be made available upon completion of the project and submission of the final report and all required documents
3. A portion of the grant funds may be made available no more than eight weeks prior to project implementation. The remaining portion of funds will be made available upon completion of the project and submission of the final report and all required documents

In all cases, funds will not be released until FishAmerica has received a signed contract, all required permit and compliance documentation, and is assured that the project meets all financial and programmatic requirements; all local, state and tribal environmental laws and Federal consistency requirements; NEPA Compliance, and NOAA's Minimum Monitoring Requirements. Grant recipients will be contacted prior to receipt of the grant contract to discuss reimbursement schedule options.

### **Grant Award Matching Requirements**

Applicants may be required to provide at least a one-to-one non-federal match for grants awarded under the FishAmerica Foundation/NOAA Restoration Center partnership. Match may consist of cash, in-kind services, and/or volunteer time. Grant recipients will be contacted prior to receipt of the grant contract to discuss matching requirements.

### **Proposal Submission**

The FishAmerica Foundation must receive **three** hardcopies of the completed applications and **three** hardcopies of all required documentation **no later than October 6, 2008 at 5:00 PM**. Electronic and faxed applications will **NOT** be accepted. **THIS IS NOT A POSTMARK DEADLINE.**

Proposals must be submitted to:

FAF/NOAA RFP – Grant Applications  
FishAmerica Foundation  
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 420  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

### **Proposal Evaluation**

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked jointly by NOAA technical staff and FishAmerica staff. Recommended proposals will be forwarded to the FishAmerica Conservation Committee for final funding consideration. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criterion:

1. Completeness of the grant application;
2. Extent to which the proposal describes the complete restoration objective;
3. Potential of and extent to which the project will improve habitat for fisheries resources;
4. Technical and scientific merit of the project;
5. Extent to which the project is identified as a local/regional priority;
6. Project feasibility, including the ability of the proposed project to deliver the stated restoration objective;
7. Extent to which the applicant has described a realistic implementation plan achievable within 12 months, including the ability to yield minimum monitoring data;
8. Degree to which proposal includes an effective mechanism to evaluate project success, using appropriate structural and functional monitoring parameters;
9. Qualification of project applicant and partners to accomplish the stated restoration objective, including necessary resources and administrative capabilities;
10. Ability of action to achieve specified results, benefits to species, and/or products for outreach and education;
11. Cost effectiveness and budget detail and justification;
12. Likelihood of long-term success and degree to which the restoration is self-sustaining;
13. Partnership/cooperation from local community groups and other organizations, including approval/support of participating landowners;
14. Extent of community, outreach, education and involvement;
15. Availability of matching funds.

### **Contact Information**

Grant applicants may contact FishAmerica at [egeorge@asafishing.org](mailto:egeorge@asafishing.org) with questions regarding potential proposals. Applicants may also contact their local/regional NOAA biologist with specific project inquiries. Please visit FishAmerica's website for a list of contact information. For more information, please visit the following websites:

**FishAmerica Foundation:** <http://www.fishamerica.org>

**NOAA Community-based Restoration Program (CRP):**

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects\\_programs/crp/index.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects_programs/crp/index.html)